



# ASCE PHILADELPHIA SECTION THE

# NEWS

Vol 98-1

**Our 113th Year**

The Sidney Robin Memorial Newsletter of the Philadelphia Section ASCE

Summer 2025



## ASCE Vision

Civil Engineers are global leaders building a better quality of life.



## ASCE Mission

Provide essential value to our members and partners, advance Civil Engineering, and serve the public good.



<http://www.asce-philly.org>

National ASCE Central Number:  
1-800-548-ASCE • Toll Free.

NON OMNIA POSSUMUS OMNES (WE CANNOT ALL DO EVERYTHING)

## SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE 2025-26

The Section Meeting program for the upcoming season is currently in the very preliminary stages and our meeting program committee is busy lining up speakers and topics for what we hope will be an interesting and informative series of meetings. The information we have at this point is provided below for your planning purposes. We would suggest that you use this to mark your calendar at this time and hold the dates.

In coming issues of *THE NEWS*, this information will be “fine-tuned” to provide updates as they are available. We also suggest you visit the Section website for the latest changes in our meeting program. As we have done, each month’s edition of *THE NEWS* will feature detailed information on that month’s meeting along with as much information as is available for the following month’s meeting, and the “look-ahead” schedule will show details that are available at that time for your advance awareness. E-mail blasts will be sent out on a regular basis to advise and remind of upcoming events and registration deadlines.

We also note the advantage of joint meetings with other societies and will continue to schedule these as we can.

Also, our Technical Groups and Institutes will have their usual programs of meetings and events which will be noted in e-blasts.

### 2025

October 2 (first Thursday)

November 13

December, to be determined

### 2026

January 21 (Wednesday) – joint meeting with American Society of Highway Engineers

February, to be determined

March 12

April 9

May 14 – Spring Social, to be determined

## PA COUNCIL IN THE NEWS

As has been done for many years, representatives from the four Pennsylvania Sections of ASCE participated in the annual Legislative Day at the State Capitol in Harrisburg, coordinated by the PA Council. The day-long event, conducted on May 12, included meetings with over 20 elected representatives and staffs to talk on current issues for our profession in our state, including transportation funding. In addition, background and informational materials were delivered to the offices of roughly a dozen other representatives who were not in attendance, but were interested in our message and supporting our issues. Thanks to those who were able to take part in this, shown in the photo.

Front row – **Cathy Farrell** (Philadelphia), **Michelle Madzellan** (Central Pennsylvania) **David DiGioia** (Pittsburgh), **Ruben David** (Philadelphia)  
Second row – **Jesse Gormley** (Philadelphia), **Greg Scott** (Pittsburgh), **Alexis Isenberg** (Central Pennsylvania), **Paul Ackerman** (Central Pennsylvania), **Loujin Daher** (Central Pennsylvania), **Tom Imholte** (Central Pennsylvania), **Bob Wright** (Philadelphia)

Third row – **Mark Garger** (Lehigh Valley), **Justin Komp** (Pittsburgh), **Andrew Kline** (Lehigh Valley/Reading), **John Caperilla** (Lehigh Valley)



## CLOSED FOR THE SUMMER, BACK IN SEPTEMBER...

While our Section is by design dormant during the summer, we offer this, our usual abbreviated summertime “teaser” edition of *THE NEWS* to bring you up to speed. We know our loyal readers are always in search of information, thus we provide this for your enjoyment and reading pleasure.

With this, we will now dutifully get out from behind the Editor’s desk and resume our break, having taken a break from it to do this, and we promise we will be back in September with our usual full issues. We hope you are enjoying your summer thus far.

## SPRING SOCIAL A SUCCESS

Our Spring Social was held on Thursday, May 15 at The Lucy in Center City. Roughly 100 attendees enjoyed the venue, the great food (and large quantities of it!), and a nice spring evening. We additionally were able to cite our Delaware Valley Science Fairs awardees, our Section Scholarship winner, and five recipients of Section Awards. And, as usual, there was a changing of the guard so to speak, or as it was also described, a "peaceful transfer of power", as outgoing Section President **Kevin Brown** handed off the gavel to incoming Section President **Jesse Gormley** and the 2025-26 Section Board was inducted.

We will provide a more detailed report on the Social in the October edition of *THE NEWS*.



## NEWS FROM NATIONAL ASCE 2025 Convention

Here's a sneak peek at some sessions you'll find at the Convention.

- Hear the opening keynote, "How AI will Define the Future of Everything," by renowned roboticist and AI expert **Ayanna Howard**, dean of The Ohio State University College of Engineering.
- Learn from an expert panel about procedures for identifying and mitigating risks in the session, *Recent Federal Government Fraud and Corruption Cases*.
- Discover how The Port of Seattle weathered a ransomware cyberattack in the session, *Creating Operational Resilience: Engineering during a Cyberattack*.
- Gain an understanding of evacuation behaviors in wildfires in the session, *Critical Behavioral Lessons from Past Wildfire Evacuations*.
- Get the latest insights on life-cycle cost, resilience, workforce, energy, extreme weather, and more.

Please visit <https://www.asce.org/education-and-events/events/meetings/asce-2025-convention> for more information.

### Election Results

The results of the recent election of National officers were announced in early June:

*President-elect Elect:* **Carol Ellinger Haddock**

*Society Directors-Elect, Region 2:* **Gregory F. Scott**

*Region Governors-Elect, Region 2:* **John Caperilla, Rosanna J. LaPlante**

## ASCE, PHILADELPHIA SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTION — 2025–26 SEASON

### PRESIDENT

Jesse Gormley, Pennoni

### PRESIDENT ELECT

Dennis Wilson, McCormick Taylor

### VICE PRESIDENT

Katrina Budischak, McCormick Taylor

### SECRETARY

Danielle Schroeder, Huitt-Zollars, Inc.

### ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Sean McCreesh, STV

### TREASURER

Timothy Abel, Amtrak

### ASSISTANT TREASURER

Ajin Fatima, Amtrak

### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Thomas Kulesher, HNTB

### DIRECTORS

Darren Black, Jacobs, 2024-26

Nooraldean Dabdoub, TPD, 2025-27

Robin Dominick, CDM Smith, 2025-27

Archie Filshill, Aero Aggregates, 2024-26

Sean McCreesh, STV, 2024-26

Caroline Voigtsberger, Pennoni, 2025-27

### PAST PRESIDENTS

Kevin Brown, Gannett Fleming TranSystems

Joseph Natale, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

Mohamed Elghawy, TPD

In accordance with our Constitution and Bylaws, only the immediate Past President will serve on the Board, and only for a one-year term. We show the most recent three Past Presidents as has become our tradition.

We thank these folks for their service and wish them well in their spots.

### Contact Us:

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### PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

#### Editor of *THE NEWS*

Robert Wright

#### Section Outreach

Jesse Gormley, Dennis Wilson

#### SEND COPY TO:

ASCE, c/o Urban Engineers, Inc.,  
530 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

**COPY DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER EDITION 2025 ISSUE  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2025**



## YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

Laurel Welch, Forum Editor

Kevin Walsh, Forum President 2025-26

HNTB, jkwalsh@hntb.com

### Perkiomen – Engineering Classes

March 6

YMF volunteers spoke to 11th and 12th graders at Perkiomen Valley High School about different fields of Engineering.

Volunteers

answered questions from students including how they became interested in Engineering and choosing college programs. One of the volunteers passed around various rock samples during the geotechnical discussion, which the students loved! This is our second annual event working with Perkiomen Valley and we look forward to future outreach events with them! Thanks to **Kerianne Chen**, **Allison Lepera**, **Emma Miernicki**, **Elvira Mikhael**, and **Kamil Nuzha** for volunteering their time!



### Resume Mastery for Early-Career Professionals with ASHE

March 18

YMF and ASHE YMC hosted a resume workshop, bringing together college students and professionals alike to learn insider tips on crafting a standout resume. A huge thank you to our guest speakers, **Jules T. Lambert** from McCormick Taylor, **Ashley A. Jones** from Temple University's College of Education, and **Britney Grisso** from ARH Associates, for sharing their expertise. Each speaker provided a unique perspective while emphasizing the importance of highlighting technical skills, quantifying achievements, and keeping resumes clear and concise. After the presentation, attendees had the valuable opportunity to receive one-on-one resume feedback from our speakers, helping them refine their resumes with expert advice. Thank you to everyone who attended and made this event a success!

### Norristown HS – Gear UP

March 20

YMF visited Norristown Area High School to share about Civil Engineering with 10th grade GEAR UP students. The students asked questions about what is involved in being an Engineer and how to pursue it as a career path. After the presentation and discussion, students broke into teams to construct the slenderest paper tower possible. Each group designed and built a paper tower which stood 3-ft tall and were tested by holding a weight while having the smallest possible building footprint. Thanks to **Assunta Daprano**, **Mohammed Alsalihi**, and **Kerianne Chen** for volunteering their time!

### Critical Issues Seminar

April 22

YMF's Annual Critical Issues Seminar highlighted and provided additional insights to our members about a current and relevant Civil Engineering topic, Philadelphia 2026, the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This monumental celebration will include several other events such as the Navy & Marine Corps 250th Celebration, NCAA March Madness, the MLB All-Star Game, the PGA Championship, and the FIFA World Cup and FIFA Fan Festival, which together will greatly affect the Civil Engineering infrastructure in our community. A panel was assembled to discuss the preparatory efforts and potential impacts to the City of Philadelphia during this exciting time! This included **Api Appulingam**, Chief Development Officer of the City Department of Aviation, **Richard Montanez**, First Deputy Commissioner of the City Department of Streets, and **Thomas Bonner**, Director of the Philadelphia Station Program of Amtrak. This was conducted at Glory Beer Bar in Old City and was well-attended, with good discussions and answers to questions from the audience.

### Spring Adopt-A-Highway Community Service Event

May 3

Members of YMF and the Younger Member Committee of ASHE Delaware Valley teamed up once again to clean up litter along our 2-mile stretch of Bethlehem Pike in Ambler. After the cleanup, volunteers had a chance to reconnect and enjoy lunch together at Fireside Bar and Grill. Thank you to all the volunteers who came out and contributed their time and effort to help keep our community clean!

### Multi-Society Kickball Tournament

June 17

YMF was joined by **ASHE YMC**, **Mid-Atlantic Section of Institute of Transportation Engineers (MASITE)**, and **Young Professionals in Transportation (YPT)** members for the third annual Kickball and Summer Picnic in Fairmount Park. Roughly 30 attendees gathered for a day filled with enjoyment and networking. Thank you to leaders in each organization for orchestrating this summer event!



### 2025-26 YMF BOARD



On May 12 YMF conducted its Executive Board elections. Following the election, the incoming and outgoing Presidents met to appoint members to fill the chair positions on the Board. Typically, the appointed individuals have either previously held a Board position or have reached out expressing interest in serving on the Board in the months leading up to the election. All elected and appointed Board members serve a one-year term, which began on June 1.

This year, we have a Board of 23 members, including two new members, **Andrew Edwins** and **Shane Leiphart**. Please join us in welcoming them and congratulate them on joining our team!

We would also like to thank our outgoing board members, **James Stanton**, **Kirsten Kennedy**, **Kris Melag**, and **Marty Williams**. *Thank you for your service to the ASCE Philadelphia Younger Member Forum!*

The YMF is pleased to announce its 2025-26 board:

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Kevin Walsh

Vice President: CJ Medora

Secretary: Kayla Nelson

Treasurer: Christian Antisell

Past President: Assunta Daprano

#### JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, & INCLUSION (JEDI) COMMITTEE

JEDI Chair: Elvira-Marie Mikhael

#### COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Information Technology Chair: Noor Dabdoub

Public Relations Chair: Laurel Welch

Social Media Chair: Zach Abbas

Awards Chair: Tyler Farley

#### OUTREACH COMMITTEE

College Contact Chair: Cory Bogas

K-12 Outreach Chairs: Tony Ableman, Shane Leiphart

Civil Engineering Club Chairs: Katie Wade, Emma Youngs

Student Member Transition Chair: Hannah Booz

#### EVENTS COMMITTEE

Social Events Chairs: Kevin Malley, Gina Venuto

Technical Events Chairs: Anthony Rizzo, Lexi Gawelko

Professional Development Chairs: Alyssa Pizzi, Andrew Edwins

Community Service Chair: Kerianne Chen

# N-ASCE\*

## MORE ON WASTEWATER REUSE... FOLLOWING REPORTS IN THE NEWS EARLIER THIS SEASON ON BEER BREWED USING WASTEWATER...

Water scarcity, population growth and climate change are on a collision course in the American West. That's clear in cities like St. George, a desert community surrounded by stunning red rock cliffs and mesas in Utah's southwest corner. The population is booming and climate change is making heat more intense and rain less reliable, pushing local leaders toward a plan to stretch the area's water supply by turning to its sewage.

That plan started with a simple math problem. As recently as 2021, this sun-drenched outdoor recreation hub was the fastest-growing metro area in the US. The local population, now just over 200,000, has more than doubled since 2002. The University of Utah projects it could double again by 2050. That's where the sewage plan comes in.

At a construction site just east of St. George, which is slated to become a new wastewater reclamation plant by the end of 2025, effluent from local kitchens and bathrooms will be received and cleaned with screens, bacteria and UV light. In the near term, the treated wastewater will be sprayed on lawns and farm fields. But that will free up water for homes, too, because the county currently uses some of its drinking water for outdoor irrigation. Within two decades, the district expects to start sending the clean water from its reclamation plants directly into the drinking supply.

Reusing water that would have otherwise flowed downstream to Lake Mead, the nation's largest reservoir, is the centerpiece of the community's long-term water plan. But it will come at a steep cost, over a billion dollars.

St. George's quandary is a microcosm of the challenges cities face across the Western US as overuse and drought strain the Colorado River and the basin's seven states fight over how the river's water gets distributed in the future. While other places recycle a lot of their sewage already, Utah reuses less than 1% of its wastewater statewide. A recent analysis suggested that if all basin states start reusing more than half of their wastewater, as Nevada and Arizona already do, it could make up for around a third of the region's expected water shortfall. A visit to St. George's main water source, the Virgin River, highlights the urgency. This waterway carved the towering red rock canyon in nearby Zion National Park. But after a historically dry winter, the section snaking through St. George has become shallow enough to walk across without getting more than your ankles wet.

In addition to reusing water, St. George and neighboring communities have adopted conservation rules in recent years that nearly eliminate grass on new development. The district also pays residents up to \$2 per square foot to rip out their irrigated lawns, a strategy other cities have tested as well. The southwest Utah program has incentivized homeowners and businesses to remove more than 2 million square feet of grass since launching in late 2022.

Just 120 miles to the southwest, Las Vegas is St. George's glitzy neighbor, and it has been reusing wastewater on a large scale for decades. At the Clark County Water Reclamation District's main plant, over 100 million gallons of sewage is treated daily for reuse. Squeezing clean water from this sea of sludge has helped the Vegas metro population more than double in the past two decades. It now has nearly 2.4 million people. Conservation efforts have played a big role there, too. Even as Vegas welcomed hundreds of thousands of new residents, the area decreased its total water consumption, a concept known as decoupling.

In Orange County, California, secondary treated sewage is taken through a three-step process, microfiltration, reverse osmosis and ultraviolet light purification, to make clean water. The Groundwater Replenishment System facility houses the pipes, filters and pumps to move up to 130m gallons each day, enough for 1 million people, processing it from dark to clear. The facility, which opened in 2008, is part of broader moves to help conserve water. It provides 45% of central Orange County's water and helps manage storm water inflows and reduce reliance on imported water.

Even though the facility turns out super-clean water, the liquid will actually head back underground. Some of it will travel in pipes to the coastline of the Pacific Ocean where it will serve as a buffer to keep the salty water out of the coastal aquifer. Most will zoom 15 miles in pipelines to the city of Anaheim, where it will create lakes to percolate down into the aquifer and replenish the water that people drink in the county.

The big drawback to this system is that making water, instead of sucking it from the ground, takes a huge amount of energy and labor. The system consumes 17 megawatts of electricity and has a monthly electricity bill of \$2.5M.

The model is increasingly being used in other water-scarce regions in the US. Los Angeles County is building a water recycling project in the San Fernando Valley to produce 20M gallons a day. Instead of sending treated wastewater out to sea, it will be cleaned for drinking water, just like in Orange County. There are also projects starting in Utah, Texas and Colorado.

The Orange County model has won awards, including a Guinness World Records title for the most wastewater recycled to drinking water in 24 hours in 2018. But the best praise is the public support for the water, and the economic argument behind it.

Thanks to NPR and *The Guardian* for this information.

\* N-ASCE – not always something concerning engineering...

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS UPDATE

As you may be aware, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists in many states are required to obtain continued professional development (CPD) credit to renew their licenses in many states. Locally, this includes Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. This is Pennsylvania's renewal year and you will likely see the notices coming your way shortly (due in September).

During your renewal process, you likely had to check your tally of professional development hours (PDH) that you needed to attest that you had to meet the minimum for renewal. As you may know, our Section's meeting program is generally able to count toward your continuing education requirement (meetings that the Section believes would not count will be

prefaced as such in the meeting announcement) for many states. We also offer various Technical Group/Institute and YMF meetings and events that offer PDH. We continue to have a verification program in place to help our members obtain and track PDH's. Over a two-year licensure period, our Section meeting program alone could amount to half of what one needs to meet many states' requirements.

Additionally, ASCE National offers free on-demand webinars and coursework that will get you up to 10 PDH's as a benefit of your membership. Information on this is available in the Membership section of the ASCE National website ([www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org)).

## THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

We are happy to report that our Section Sponsorship Program enjoyed another successful season in 2024-25, with 17 firms making the commitment. This remains at the highest level of participants we have had in the past few years, with the same number in 2023-24. Many of these generous companies have been supporting our Section consistently for several years.

Additionally, we introduced a higher level of support this season and these firms were our introductory **VIP Title Sponsors**:

- BDI
- Pennoni
- Gannett Fleming TranSystems
- TPD

Our other sponsors included these companies:

- Aero Aggregates
- ARM Group
- Bowman
- Buckley & Company
- CDM Smith
- HNTB
- JBC Associates
- Langan Engineering and Environmental Sciences
- McCormick Taylor
- Michael Baker International
- Urban Engineers
- Villanova University Stormwater Program
- Wilkinson

Sponsor logos are displayed in a special Sponsors section of our website.

Additionally, we provide direct links to sponsors' own websites so prospective employees can review all available and up-to-date positions. We do not show the sponsors' logos in the Summer edition of *THE NEWS* but will pick it up again in the fall. And speaking of this, we will be contacting current sponsors later this summer with more information on the program for the coming season. We hope the program will be as successful then as well.

If you have an interest in joining our sponsorship program, please contact **Bob Wright** at [newseditor@asce-philly.org](mailto:newseditor@asce-philly.org) for more details.

Also, as you may be aware, our Section recognizes government and quasi-government agencies for the assistance they have provided us. The logos of these sponsors will be provided in the Agency Partners section in the October edition of *THE NEWS*. We are proud to cite last season's Agency Partners:

- Amtrak
- City of Philadelphia Department of Licenses & Inspections
- City of Philadelphia Department of Streets
- Delaware River Port Authority/Port Authority Transit Corporation
- Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
- Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, District 6-0
- Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission
- Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority

### Richard Woodring

Dr. Richard E. Woodring, 93, of Bloomfield, CT, and formerly of Erdenheim, PA, passed away peacefully on April 22. Dick was born in Philadelphia in 1931 and received an athletic scholarship to Drexel University, where he studied Civil Engineering and participated in the ROTC program. After experiencing a shoulder injury, his focus shifted fully towards his Engineering studies, a passion that would continue throughout his tenured career in academia. He earned his BS from Drexel in 1954 and his MS and PhD degrees from the University of Illinois, where he specialized in the study of reinforced concrete.

Over his teaching career, Dick served in various leadership positions at Drexel, including Department Head of Civil Engineering, Dean of Engineering, Vice President for Student Life, Dean of Engineering Emeritus and Professor Emeritus. His passion for education remained after his retirement from Drexel in 1995, and he continued teaching both first year and senior design students for many years.

Dick was a founder of Philadelphia Regional Introduction for Minorities to Engineering (PRIME), a consortium of Engineering schools designed to encourage minorities to pursue a career in Engineering. In 1992, he was chosen as an original member of the Drexel 100, the University's Hall of Fame for alumni who have made significant contributions to their profession, community, and the university itself. In 1999, the Richard Woodring Labs at Drexel University were dedicated in his honor. In 2010, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Engineering degree from Drexel. In 2023, one of his former students established the Richard Woodring '54 HD '10 Endowed Professorship to commemorate his remarkable career. Among his many honors was his citation as the Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year in 1987.

Dick is survived by his wife of 69 years, Marie Geibel Woodring, a son and daughter, five grandsons and one great grandson. He was a lifelong Phillies and Eagles fan, and upon moving to Connecticut in 2012 to be closer to family, he also became a dedicated UConn women's basketball fan.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Richard Woodring Endowed Professorship at Drexel University, PO Box 8215, Philadelphia, PA 19101-9684. Please include **Woodring Endowed Professorship** on the memo line of the check. Please visit Dick's Book of Memories at [www.vincentfuneralhome.com](http://www.vincentfuneralhome.com) for online tributes.

## SPONSORS IN THE NEWS

### GFT Combines Gannett Fleming, TranSystems — A Legacy of Transformation

In 2024, GFT was born through the merger of two trusted names in infrastructure, Gannett Fleming and TranSystems. Combining more than a century of innovation, expertise, and dedication to sustainability, we proudly honor our shared history in everything we do.

Gannett Fleming was founded in 1915 by Farley Gannett and Theodore Seelye as Farley Gannett, Consulting Engineer in Harrisburg, PA set out to advance America's infrastructure. Samuel Fleming, Jr. joined the firm shortly after in 1916. Over the years, the firm expanded its services across water resources, transportation, environmental solutions, and more, becoming a global leader in engineering and design.

TranSystems was established in 1966 by Herbert Johnson, Gerald Brickell, and Edward Mulcahy as JBM Associates Engineers and Planners in Kansas City to address growing transportation challenges. Over time, the firm merged with other respected companies and became TranSystems in 1995. With a focus on

transportation infrastructure, TranSystems expanded coast to coast and provided a powerful combination of national expertise with a local understanding of the communities it serves.

Prior to the merger, both firms experienced tremendous periods of growth and welcomed more firms through acquisitions, adding capabilities, new markets, and additional engaged professionals to solidify their roles as industry leaders. This growth set the stage for the successful merger into GFT.

### Ingenuity That Shapes Lives

As a unified firm, GFT exists to shape a lasting legacy for future generations by transforming the infrastructure of life. Our team of 5,000+ experts design, construct, and engineer resilient, creative solutions that uplift communities across North America and beyond.



## FROM THE SOMEWHAT-CLUTTERED DESK OF THE EDITOR...

As usual, we turn the calendar page for another month and then wonder how it got to be July already, but the reality is that it is indeed summertime, as if the recent sweltering weather wasn't a good clue on that. While the Spring Social, our most recent Section event, was nearly two months ago, it feels like much longer than that for some reason. And a few days before that, we were making our annual all-day visit (and it's a long day – those of us who were part of this were up and out of the house well before sunrise and back home as the evening was getting started) to Harrisburg to fill our electeds in on what we need for our profession and consequently what we need to help maintain the quality of life we all enjoy. The visits continue to be productive in building good relationships with our representatives and senators, and we have been able to show that we can help deliver what is needed. Unlike many groups, which come in, visit the electeds, elucidate (your word for today...) their lists of needs, and then leave, we offer to remain available to be resources to the electeds when they may need our help. And the electeds are very willing to listen and often take us up on our offer. This continues to work well.

We just celebrated the July 4 weekend, which does not happen often. The last time it was on a Friday was in 2014 and on a Monday was in 2016. The next time it will fall on a Friday is 2031 and on a Monday is 2033, so we hope you enjoyed it. The news media was calling the week prior to it a holiday week since so many had turned it into just that with extended vacations. We are often told by said media that the unofficial start of summer is Memorial Day, even though it officially starts on June 21, and then we will be reminded by the various weathermen and women that meteorological summer is June, July and August, thus somewhere between Memorial Day and the first day of summer. It is little wonder we are as confused as we are.

We also seem to be in the precarious position of watching our transit system become much smaller with less frequent service, unless our state electeds act to provide additional needed funding. The state budget deadline in PA has come and gone, and nothing has happened on this. This will impact what many of us do as civil engineers. It is always interesting for the city boy that is me watch those who assail the big city and its many problems to which money must be "thrown" to solve, and how this is too often used in a harmful way to for whatever reason punish certain groups (I would call this "weaponization" but am reluctant to do so as that term is way too overused these days). Pennsylvania is unusual among states in that each of our 67 counties has transit service of some sort and it comes in handy especially for those who can no longer drive and still need basic mobility. New Jersey, Connecticut and Delaware are in similar situations with statewide transit service. They are having similar issues with funding transit.

It is difficult again, for this city boy at least, to imagine transit not being readily available (and keep in mind (1) I am far from a boy (except mentally, one could argue, and probably successfully), thus have been around for a while and (2) for my entire life transit has been a benefit I have used extensively, thus it is hard to imagine why we would not want to preserve this valuable benefit). We are hopeful this gets less political and more beneficial in the eyes of our electeds, but we know this is one of those issues that will be greatly overplayed and dramatized before the hoped-for solution is realized. It is nice to know some things don't change...

As we move toward less paper and more computerized files, etc., the net result is less clutter, thus the title of this piece, and surprisingly following two weeks out of the office I returned to almost the same small amount of clutter that was there on my desk as when I left to begin

vacation. I guess that's progress... Keeping in mind the work-from-home trend seems to be drifting away, and many companies have gone to 4 days minimum in the office (and that is very evident on my daily train rides, with fairly crowded conditions continuing), maybe paper will be making a similar comeback of sorts. Whether this is good or bad, we shall see. If the threatened cuts in transit service noted above happen later this summer, the "cross" trends (reduced service vs. more commuters) might become a bigger issue. Again, we shall see...

As I get older I see the effects of it (and am often not happy with those). One of these is the ability to forget more, resulting in my writing more down and keeping notes on devices, etc. as reminders (thus, forcing me to remember to check those reminders, so you see the vicious circle here...). One thing I do for whatever reason seem to know right off the top of my head without any thinking about it and with no forgetting is that I will be starting my 23rd season as Editor of The News this year, having inherited the title in August 2003, when the esteemed Sid Robin left us and unwittingly put me on a path to this "promotion" to fill a pair of shoes I'm still not sure I am adequately filling (and I can almost hear him telling me to quit it with the run-on sentences like this one already...). As the Latins say, tempus fugit, especially when you're having fun... In much the same way our Section is entering Year 113 of being around, very impressive, and still going strong.

We hope to see you during our coming season's events, and if you have time and energy to help us do what we do, please let us know. We can always use more help.

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

### Vigilante Cited by Lehigh Valley Chamber



On June 17 Past Section President AnnMarie Vigilante was awarded the inaugural Lehigh Valley Transportation Leadership Award by the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce at the Lehigh Valley Transportation Forum. This award recognizes an individual or organization for

outstanding contributions to transportation in the Greater Lehigh Valley. The Forum included expert panels discussing regional mobility, infrastructure challenges, and transportation needs.

AnnMarie noted, "This recognition holds immense significance for me, and I am deeply appreciative of the Chamber and my fellow members of the Transportation Committee for this honor. Transportation is the backbone of our community, enabling growth, connectivity, and prosperity. To be acknowledged for my contributions to this essential sector is both humbling and inspiring. This award is a testament to the collective efforts of many individuals and organizations who share a common vision for a better, more connected Greater Lehigh Valley!"

We congratulate AnnMarie on this honor.